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**From:** Selzer, Paula [Selzer.Paula@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/22/2018 1:30:51 PM  
**To:** Donaldson, Guy [Donaldson.Guy@epa.gov]; Verhalen, Frances [verhalen.frances@epa.gov]; Taheri, Diane [Taheri.Diane@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Emerging Health Concern in Region 6 -ATSDR Health Consult on Ethylene Oxide  
**Attachments:** NATA Key Talking Points. 8.20.18 Version for States .docx; NATA preview 2018.pdf

All, I got a request from OAQPS (Alison) to talk this morning. Can someone be on the call as well?

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**From:** Young, Patrick  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 22, 2018 7:50 AM  
**To:** Ashley Whitlow <Ashley.Whitlow@arkansas.gov>; Bojes, Heidi (DSHS <Heidi.Bojes@dshs.texas.gov>; 'Borron, Stephen' <Stephen.Borron@ttuhsc.edu>; 'David Baker' <David.Baker@BSWHealth.org>; Davis, Alison <Davis.Alison@epa.gov>; Dianne Dugas <Dianne.Dugas@LA.GOV>; 'Edd Rhoades' <EDDR@health.ok.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; 'Hall, Emily (DSHS)' <Emily.Hall@dshs.texas.gov>; Heidi.Krapfl@state.nm.us; Hoogheem, Jeff (DSHS <Jeff.Hoogheem@dshs.state.tx.us>; 'Howell Foster <hrfoster@uams.edu>; Jaramillo, Jeanie <Jeanie.Jaramillo@ttuhsc.edu>; 'Jean Cole' <jcole@UTMB.EDU>; Jorie Klein <JORIE.KLEIN@phhs.org>; Joshi Prashant <prashant.joshi@ttuhsc.edu>; kathleen.aubin@la.gov; Kelly Hogue <KELLY.HOGUE@phhs.org>; lawwhite@tulane.edu; Lori Simmons <Lori.Simmons@arkansas.gov>; Lyke, Jennifer L. (ATSDR/DCHI/CB <jlf1@cdc.gov>; McElvany, Rocky <RockyM@health.ok.gov>; MELODY.GARDNER@phhs.org; Morton, Michael <Morton.Michael@epa.gov>; MRyan@lsuhsc.edu; SBaeza@umcelpaso.org; Scott-Schaeffer@ouhsc.edu; Selzer, Paula <Selzer.Paula@epa.gov>; sharilyn.stanley@csec.texas.gov; Sproat, Scott M. <ScottS@health.ok.gov>; 'ssmolinske@salud.unm.edu'; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>; Veronica Stoller <stoller@uthscsa.edu>; 'wbanner@aol.com'  
**Subject:** FW: Emerging Health Concern in Region 6 -ATSDR Health Consult on Ethylene Oxide

All,

Another piece to the puzzle. ATSDR in Region 5 released yesterday an ATSDR Health Consultation on an analysis of environmental air data associated with ethylene oxide emissions from a site identified as Sterigenics International, Inc., located in Willowbrook, Illinois. I'm including the link for your review. In summary, it appears air samples were collected in and around a facility and community in 2018. ATSDR findings concluded the site posed a public health hazard. [https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/sterigenic/Sterigenics International Inc-508.pdf](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/sterigenic/Sterigenics%20International%20Inc-508.pdf)

Based on the EPA National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) report, the assumptions might be made that similar facilities that release ethylene oxide emissions (producers/users) with similar air emission conditions as the Sterigenics site identified through NATA, might pose a health hazard if environmental sampling is conducted? Currently, I am unaware as far as next steps with respect to environmental agencies to collect or review any site specific environmental emission data from those site that use or produce ethylene oxide in Region 6, similar to the Illinois site. That issue, will more than likely will be addressed in the very near future.

In the meantime, prudent public health measures should continue to be crafted in Region 6. Continue coordination and collaboration with state health authorities and environmental agencies. Talking points addressing public

health/community health/occupational health concerns to should be developed and universally shared. Poison Control Centers should continue developing methodologies to address community health concerns to include occupational health exposure questions and prepare Specialist in Poison Information (SPI) to be able to address community health concerns. Medical/health referral mechanism should also be crafted to better assist the Poison Control Centers triage calls accordingly. Where to go for general questions, for example... acute, chronic, occupational, oncology, community health, environmental, pediatric, veterinary, media etc. Each state may want to start outlining a plan of action in order to stay ahead of any future environmental sampling on ethylene oxide that may result in a public health hazard finding. This is my professional opinion as your ATSDR Regional Representative.

As Poison Control Centers craft/develop role out strategies on addressing this issue. Can you please share with this group email so all are aware.

ATSDR R6 is here to offer any technical support needed by the State and Poison Centers.

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**From:** Young, Patrick

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2018 10:05 AM

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**Subject:** Emerging Health Concern in Region 6 - EPA report on Ethylene Oxide and associated cancer rates

Greetings Region 6 Poison Control Center Directors and State Health Representative,

ATSDR Region 6 just became aware of a pending EPA report from the National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) air modeling group, identifying **ethylene oxide** as an increased cancer risk to some communities. **This report will hit the streets tomorrow.** You can access this report through the web link provided in the talking points attachment. This will be a chronic health issue. And it appears the air releases are primarily from the manufacturing process and subsequent atmospheric air release associated with production of ethylene oxide. The air data was collected in 2014 and being summarized now for the public.

From the EPA National perspective, 19 cities were identified as having elevated cancers risk  $\geq 100$ -in-1 million. Out of the 19 Cities, there were 8 Cities identified in our Region, Region 6. (New Orleans-Metairie, LA; Lake Charles, LA; Baton Rouge, LA; Marshall, TX; Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX; Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar

Land, TX; Laredo, TX; Las Cruces, NM). It was reported that fewer than 1% of the census tracts in the country (106 tracts in 19 metropolitan statistical areas) have the estimated cancer risk of  $\geq 100$ -in-1 million.

In order to address potential community health concerns (citizens, clinicians, oncologist, community, family, children, etc.) I would like to propose the following strategy:

## Public Health Strategy

1. Notify each State Health Authority and R6 PCC of pending EPA report. Share all talking points with the State Health Authority/PCC.
2. Stand up the Poison Control Centers in Region 6 to serve as the initial call center to collect any medical/health calls from the community concerned with ethylene oxide.
3. Poison Centers can triage public calls and determine level of escalation (State Health, City Health, EPA, ATSDR, DHHS, AOEC Clinic, etc ).
4. Children's Health Questions can be directed to our R6 PEHSU- with Dr. Borron)
5. Request the Poison Control Center to create a computer code to allow for extraction of data calls from their system. (should be a national code)
6. Request the each State Poison Center to develop a situation report at the end of each week to capture/reflect number and kind of calls received by the public. Provided situation report to State Health authorities and federal agencies (weekly for now)
7. ATSDR R6 will work to draft template for Situation Report.
8. ATSDR R6 staff (Jennifer Lyke and CAPT Patrick Young) will serve as a liaison with R6 PCC/State Health and EPA to provide public health support.

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp137.pdf>

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts137.pdf>

## Suggested EPA Strategy to Support Public Health

1. Include key health stakeholders in information roll out process.
2. Share environmental data, information, maps etc. with key stakeholders.
3. Any information shared by EPA with the public on ethylene oxide, to direct public health/medical concerns to the Poison Control Center national phone number 1-800-222-1222.
4. EPA should coordinate with the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) through Dr. Bannor, President of AAPCC and Dr. Mark Ryan, Louisiana PCC Director. Dr. Ryan can facilitate with other Poison Centers outside of Region 6 (National Perspective)

Respectfully,

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